

## Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 T-03 /124 W

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R 091025 Z MAR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WAHDC 2712

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0710

O. E. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJ: MARCH 8 - 9 CAIRO PRESS ON SUDANESE EVENTS

REF: CAIRO 0693

1. ARRESTS OF SUDANESE IMPLICATED IN BSO/ KHARTOUM OPERATION AND NIMAIRI / ARAFAT DIFFERENCES DOMINATE HEADLINES AND LEAD STORIES MARCH 8. AHRAM NOTES ARRESTS OF SIX IN KHARTOUM, AND REPORTS THEY WILL BE GIVEN MILITARY TRIAL ON CHARGES OF PLOTTING AGAINST STATE. AHRAM NOTES NIMAIRI' S CHARGE OF "INDIRECT COMPLICITY" AGAINST COL. MOHAMMAD ABDEL HAKIM, NOW IN LIBYA. ALL PAPERS REPORT ON NIMAIRI' S NOTE TO ARAB LEAGUE AND ON SUDANESE PRESS COVERAGE WHICH CONTINUES TO DRAW LINKAGE BETWEEN BSO AND FATAH.

2. MARCH 9 PRESS HAS VARIED COVERAGE. AKHBAR DOWNGRADES  
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ISSUE TO MINOR SPOT ON PAGE ONE , WHILE AHRAH AND GUMHURIYYA CONTINUE TO PLAY IT AS MAJOR NEWS. AHRAH BANNERS, " VIOLENT CRISIS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIMAIRI AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE," AND FOCUSES LEAD STORY ON CLASH BETWEEN SUDANESE PRESIDENT AND ARAFAT OVER BSO LINK WITH FATAH. AHRAH STATES THAT CRISIS HAS INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING ARAFAT' S REJECTION OF NIMAIRI' S ACCUSATIONS, CONTINUES THAT THIS HAS LED DIRECTLY TO " CONTACTS" BETWEEN CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND TRIPOLI. PRESS REPORTS POSITION OF CAR ON SUBJECT :

( A) NECESSITY OF LIMITING EFFECTS OF KHARTOUM AND NOT DISSIPATING ARAB ENERGIES ;

( B) AFFIRMING BASIC SUPPORT OF CAR FOR PALESTINIAN RESISTENCE " AS REPRESENTED BY THE PLO, IN ITS CAPACITY AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN THIS REGARD, THE CAR STATES BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO DO ALL THAT MIGHT GUARANTEE THE MARCH OF THE RESISTANCE, TO PROTECT IT FROM DEFECTS AND HARM, AND PRESERVE IT FORM THE DANGERS OF LIQUIDATION."

AHRAH NOTES NIMAIRI' S REPLY TO ARAFAT AND STATEMENT THAT HE IS PREPARED TO SEND EVIDENCE OF BSO/ FATAH CONNECTION TO ARAFAT, IF NECESSARY. CAIRO PRESS ALSO REPORTS WITHDRAWAL OF SUDAN FROM ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE MARCH 8, FOLLOWING DECISION BY CONFERENCE TO SEND TELEGRAM TO NIMAIRI PLEADING FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS AND ASKING HIM NOT TO BOW TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE FOR " LIQUIDATION" OF FEDAYEEN IN THE SUDAN.

3. EDITORIALS: ALI HAMD AL- GAMMAL ( AHRAH) IN MARCH 8 ARTICLE STATES THAT IT IS REGRETTABLE ARAB STATES SHOULD PUNISH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS FOR ACTIONS COMMITTED OUT OF DESPAIR. HE ASKS IF ACTIVITIES OF PALESTINIANS ON ARAB SOIL IS RIGHT WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, AND SUGGESTS THAT BY SUCH ACTIVITIES ARABS FALL INTO US AND ISRAELI TRAP.

4. EDITORIALS: MAMDUH REDA IN MARCH 8 GUMHURIYYA WRITES FIRST EDITORIAL DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF KHARTOUM OPERATION. HE STATES FIRST THAT ARABS BELIEVE IN AND SUPPORT FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY. NEVERTHELESS, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT MISTAKES OF SOME FEDAYEEN SHOULD BE OVERLOOKED . REDA SAYS THAT IF CONFIDENTIAL

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GOAL OF KHARTOUM KILLINGS WAS REVENGE FOR LIBYAN AIRCRAFT

INCIDENT, REVENGE COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN INSIDE THE OCCUPIED LANDS. IF GOAL WAS TO WIN SYMPATHY FOR PALESTINIANS, SYMPATHY WAS IN FACT WON BY LIBYAN AIRCRAFT TRAGEDY; " THE FEDAYEEN SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF OTHER OPERATIONS . . ." REDA CONCLUDES THAT MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF KHARTOUM IS TO ILLUSTRATE NEED TO UNIFY FEDAYEEN ACTION AND PLACE IT UNDER ORDERS OF PALESTINIAN COMMAND. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, THEN ARAB NATION WILL WANT TO KNOW WHY PALESTINIANS DIFFER.

5. MARCH 9 CAIRO EDITORIALS DO NOT FOCUS ON KHARTOUM.

6. FOLLOWING ON EXTENSIVE REPORTAGE OF NIMAIRI' S ACCUSATION OF FATAH ( REFTTEL), CAIRO PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES TO HOLD A SLIGHTLY PRO- NIMAIRI BALANCE. THIS IS UNDERSCORED BY MARCH 8 EDITORIALS, ONE EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ABOUT PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY ON ARAB SOIL, THE OTHER STATING THAT OTHER COURSES OF ACTION SHOULD BE FOUND.  
GREENE

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